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THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA



September 12, 2005

Certified Mail No. 7003 1010 0004 4860 0367

Harry R. Steinmetz (3HS62)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

Re: Safety Light Corporation Site
Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania
EPA's Request for Information Pursuant to CERCLA Section 104

Dear Mr. Steinmetz:

This letter is the University of Iowa's response to EPA's letter dated August 2, 2005, addressed to Douglas K. True, University of Iowa, 105 Jessup Hall, Iowa City, IA 52242.

1. It appears from the Safety Light ledger provided in your letter that the University's Physics & Astronomy Department purchased a 3 mCi strontium-90 Isolite source (USRC# 13721) on 10/22/1958. This source was also shipped back to Safety Light Corporation for recalibration on 3/29/1963 and then returned to the University following recalibration on 4/17/1963. The University's Physics & Astronomy Department also appears to have purchased a 10 mCi strontium-90 sealed source (USRC# 47658) on 10/12/1962. Beyond the purchase of these two small sealed sources we have no knowledge or record of any other business relationship with Safety Light.

As for the Safety Light ledger entries for the forty pieces of foil dated 10/20/1961 and the two radium sources dated August 20 with no year specified, we have no knowledge or records of these transactions. Without more information specifying what radionuclide or material that the foils consisted of and specifying the year for the radium sources it is not possible to perform a record search or to identify these items.

2. Our records from the 1950's and 60's are incomplete, but we have no evidence and no knowledge to suggest that the University ever transported or brokered any hazardous and/or radioactive waste to the Safety Light site.

In addition, our records do indicate that the 3 mCi strontium-90 source (USRC# 13721) was shipped to Perma-Fix in Gainesville, Florida (on 10/21/1997) before final disposal (burial) at Barnwell, South Carolina on 12/2/1997 via Bionomics (our waste broker). The second source, USRC# 47658 (Sr-90 sealed source, original activity 10 mCi) is still in the possession of the University's Physics & Astronomy Department.

3. NA

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4. Not to the best of our knowledge.
5. NA
6. James Van Allen, Professor Emeritus, Department of Physics & Astronomy, University of Iowa was a member of the Physics and Astronomy department at the time of the purchase of the two radioactive sources. Dr. Van Allen recalled in a recent telephone conversation that they did use small Strontium-90 sources in the 1960's to calibrate instruments used in Dr. Van Allen's research.

James Van Allen

(b) (6)

Mr. William Twaler served as the University of Iowa's Radiation Safety Officer from 1963 to 1991. In a recent telephone conversation he stated that he did not specifically recall any transactions between the University of Iowa and Safety Light or the other named companies in the information request.

William Twaler

(b) (6)

Mr. Bruce Randall is retired from the University of Iowa and worked with Dr. James Van Allen at the University of Iowa during much of the time frame subject to the information request and dealt with some of the small sealed sources used in Dr. Van Allen's research. Mr. Randall stated in a recent telephone conversation that he had no recollection of business relationships with the companies named in the information request.

Mr. Bruce Randall

(b) (6)

Or

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

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7. See item 6.
8. NA
9. As indicated in our response to Item 2 we have records indicating the Isolute Sr-90 source (USRC# 13721) was disposed of at Barnwell, SC on 12/2/1997, and we are still in possession of the Sr-90 sealed source (USRC# 47658). We have no records of any waste transactions with or transport to Safety Light or U.S. Radium, Lime Ridge Industries, USR Industries, USR Metals, Metreal, or Isolute. As indicated in our response to Item 1, there is insufficient information in the ledger provided to identify the foils or the radium sources. 9.a The University's current records retention policy is available on line at: <http://www.uiowa.edu/~fusrmp/>

The following information is a statement of the current University of Iowa Radiation Safety Officer, Joe Graves:

- a. Since assuming responsibility as the University's Radiation Safety Officer in 1991, our record retention policy is to maintain records of all waste disposal of licensed radioactive material until license termination as required by regulation (Iowa Administrative Code 641-40.88(136C)). Prior to 1990 I am unable to address the previous Radiation Safety Officer's (William Twaler) record retention policy.
- b. Unknown.
- c. Unknown.
- d. William Twaler, 400 Essex Park Circle, Franklin, TN 37069-8415

Sincerely,



Michael Paul Valde
Environmental Compliance Manager
University of Iowa

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e-mail: michael-valde@uiowa.edu

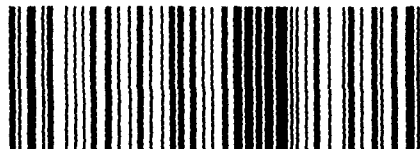
cc: Douglas K. True
Marc Mills
Jim Pyrz
Joe Graves
Drew Ives

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Environmental Services
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Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1950

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